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DATE: 9 Nov

NEW YORK TIMES

U.S. Firm on Shcharansky Case Despite Roommate's C.I.A. Link

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 7 — United States officials said today that they still regarded the pending trial of Anatoly Shcharansky, a Soviet Jewish dissident, as a test of Soviet-American relations, despite the confirmation that a former roommate of his had worked for the Central Intelligence Agency.

American intelligence sources confirmed a report in Time magazine that the roommate, Dr. Sanya L. Lipavsky, who is also Jewish, had worked for the C.I.A. for less than a year in 1975-76, providing information on the Soviet scientific community.

In a letter published in March 1977 in the Soviet Government newspaper Izvestia, Dr. Lipavsky disclosed his own connection with the C.I.A. and said Mr. Shcharansky and other dissidents had also been involved with the agency. Mr. Shcharansky was arrested soon after.

The issue has become a barometer of Soviet-American relations because President Carter has taken a personal interest in the case. Last June 13, at a news conference, he said he was "completely convinced" that Mr. Shcharansky had never worked for the C.I.A. Well-placed sources said today President Carter at the time knew of Dr. Lipavsky's connection.

The sources said Dr. Lipavsky had



Anatoly Shcharansky

taken the initiative in approaching American diplomats with an offer to supply information about the science community. According to these sources, there was a debate at the time about the value of using such a person who could have been an agent provocateur.

The view that prevailed was that, in view of the limited sources on the Soviet

scientific world, it was worth taking the risk. The sources said the C.I.A. had dropped Dr. Lipavsky when strong doubts arose about his value.

Consternation in Jewish Groups

The confirmation of Dr. Lipavsky's role has caused concern among Jews who have campaigned for Mr. Shcharansky's release.

Eugene Gold, the Brooklyn District Attorney, who is chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said:

"The recent alleged confirmation of Lipavsky's link with the C.I.A. has in fact no direct connection with Anatoly Shcharansky. It now appears that Lipavsky volunteered his services for the C.I.A., lending credence to the suspicion that he did so as an agent of the Soviet secret police and for the purpose of implicating Soviet Jews actively engaged in the legal struggle to emigrate."

A spokesman for the Senate Intelligence committee said the group would look into the affair because important questions had been raised. He did not elaborate.

Although the Soviet press has accused Mr. Shcharansky of treason, the authorities have not said what the formal charges will be. A defense lawyer was named last week, and the trial is expected soon.

American officials said that if the au-

thorities brought treason charges, they would probably rely on Dr. Lipavsky's testimony in an effort to link his own C.I.A. work with Mr. Shcharansky. Although they once shared an apartment, there appears to be no evidence that Mr. Shcharansky had any knowledge of Dr. Lipavsky's role.

One official said: "We have made clear to the Soviet Union on numerous occasions privately and publicly our interest in and concern for Mr. Shcharansky. We, of course, maintain our strong humanitarian to the C.I.A. would be an insult to Mr. Carter 'and the Russians know that.'"

Shcharansky Friend to Emigrate

MOSCOW, March 7 (AP)—Dina Beilin, a colleague of Anatoly Shcharansky, has received permission to emigrate after six years of waiting, dissident sources said today.

The sources speculated that the authorities were eager to have Mrs. Beilin out of the country before Mr. Shcharansky's trial. She had been expected to testify in his defense. The two worked closely together in the Jewish emigration movement.

The sources said Mrs. Beilin, a design engineer, her husband Joseph, a mathematician, and their two daughters were told yesterday to be out of the Soviet Union within 12 days.